Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Belleville, Sumpter Township,
& the Charter Township of Van Buren
152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI 48111
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BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 21.36 Thursday, September 3, 2015 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren FREE

Photo by Jeffrey Riggs

There was a lot of celebrating in the Belleville area with the Blue Angels in town. A big party was held on Belleville Lake to raise money for the Yankee Air Force. D.J.'s on the Lake Chris and Alex Donley put on a show filled with prizes and events including dancing, egg throws and other fun events, all for charity and lake fun.

Belleville celebrates air show

The German soldiers had captured Belleville's museum on Friday and American soldiers came up Main Street with blazing machine guns, rifles, and cannon and recaptured the museum. A large crowd sat and stood on the curbs watching the battle. (There were lots of casualties, but they all got up and brushed themselves off after the fighting was over.) This reenactment of a World War II battle was promotion for the air show at Willow Run Airport. In the past, reenactors had put on a parade up Main Street. This year it was a big battle on Main Street and then an opportunity for the public to get close to the old military vehicles and admire them. Afterward, they did parade to Third Street up North Liberty Street and over the bridge, heading back to Willow Run.

Photo by Tammy G. Rice

A special photo was taken at Sunday's Thunder over Michigan Air Show with the U.S Navy Blue Angels. Tammy Rice said she couldn't believe how perfectly aligned the jets were with the American Flag. God Bless the USA!

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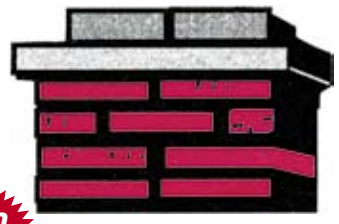

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter Township named 34th safest community in Michigan

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township is rated 34th out of the 50 safest municipalities in the state Michigan.

Sumpter Police Chief Jim Pierce made the announcement at the Aug. 25 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees.

Police Captain Eric Luke said Safewise.com announced its list of safe communities, studying municipalities statewide with more than 5,000 residents.

Captain Luke said Huron Township was #50 and Canton Township was #45. He said Van Buren Township was not on the list and the city of Belleville has fewer than 5,000 residents and didn't qualify.

Sumpter's listing said:

Roadside fruit stands and people on horseback are common sights in this safe community. Sumpter Township may have a country feel, but it's 100% modern when it comes to fighting crime. The city uses Nixle to keep residents informed about important safety information. This service allows two-way communication in real time through text, email, social media, voicemail, and a mobile Nixle app.
Population: 9,310
Violent Crimes per 1,000: 1.50
Property Crimes per 1,000: 11.60

Safewise.com explains: "To identify the 50 safest cities in Michigan, we started by looking at cities with a population of more than 5,000 residents in 2013, as well as those that did not make a complete crime report to the FBI. From there, we analyzed the most recent FBI Crime Report Statistics from 2013 for each city, including both property crime (arson, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft) and violent crime (robbery, murder, aggravated assault, rape). Then, to make everything equitable, we calculated the chance of these crimes occurring out of 1,000 people in each city."

Township board members and members of the public congratulated the police department on its work to keep Sumpter safe.

In other business at the Aug. 25 meeting, the board:

• Watched the Parks and Recreation Commission present a plaque to Dave Seegert of Republic Waste/Carleton Farms to thank the companies for all the help it has given to Sumpter Township, cluding paying for the fireworks at Sumpter Fest for many years and sending out machinery to smooth the ground at the fairgrounds and at township parks;

• Approved a new lease for WIC which will be moving from the post office building to the community center next door. The service comes to serve the community three days a week. The rent is $500 a month with the township paying for utilities. WIC is the federal nutritional program for Women, Infants and Children;

• Approved the sale of three old golf carts for $900, with the money going to the Parks and Recreation Fund;

• Approved the fire fighters' annual chicken broil at fire station #1 from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13, at a cost of $10 per person. The fire hall is at 20550 Sumpter Road at the corner of Kozma;

• Approved the request of fire fighter Anthony Spitznagel to return from a leave of absence;

• Approved the resignation of fire fighter Jason Reeves. Trustee Bill Hamm, who is also a fire fighter, said he understands the reason for his leaving, but he's going to be missed dearly. "He's a good guy. The nicest guy I ever knew," Hamm said;

• Approved the purchase of four portable radios for the fire department at a cost of $6,695.65 from Advanced Wireless Telecom; and

• Heard Mary Ban say her husband Barney is making progress after having six heart bypasses. She said his doctor said he wants Barney to get out now and "live life." Mary, who usually attends every township board meeting, was absent for three meetings in a row because of her husband's health and a church event and Supervisor John Morgan said he has missed her and her comments.

At the Sumpter Township meeting of Aug. 25, the Parks and Recreation Commission presents a plaque to Dave Seegert, center, of Republic Waste / Carleton Farms to thank the companies for all the help they have given to the township. Trustee Donnie Swinson is at left and Kim Toms, chairman of Sumpter Fest, at right. The companies have paid for the fireworks at Sumpter Fest for years and regularly send out large equipment and crews to smooth the land at the fairgrounds and parks.

Sumpter residents earn 28 medals for 21 entrants in Senior Olympics

Out of the 21 participants Sumpter Township had in the recent Western Wayne County Senior Olympics, Sumpter people got 28 medals.

"I think Sumpter was the only community to get more medals than it had participants," said Senior Director Mary Ann Watson.

She read the winners to the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees at its regular meeting on Aug. 25:

• Pauline Armatis, 2 gold medals, 1 silver, 2 bronze for crochet, needlework, baking, bocce ball, Frisbee;
• Connie Folks, 3 gold medals, 1 silver, 2 bronze for baking, biking, basketball;
• Barbara Zierle, 1 bronze for drawing;
• Patricia Sheppard, 2 silver, 1 bronze for baking, trivia;
• Juanita Johnson-Owens, 1 bronze for baking;
• Beverly Powell, 2 gold medals for basketball, Frisbee;
• Frances Quinney, 1 silver, 1 bronze for Frisbee, basketball;
• Ed Kaminsky, 1 gold for bocce ball;
• Helen Krajewski, 1 gold for bocce ball;
• Bonnie Rish, 2 bronze for crochet, WII Bowl;
• Paulette Thompson, 1 gold, 2 bronze for Frisbee, soccerkick, softball throw;
• Betty Parmalee, 1 gold for Frisbee;
• Jackie Hanson, 1 gold for pinochle;
• Mary Sherwood, 1 bronze for trivia.

Meets without quorum:

Belleville DDA looks at plans for spending future tax money

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Aug. 26 special meeting of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority, which had been moved from the regular Aug. 19 meeting date, had no quorum.

Absent were Denise Baker, Brian Copsey, and Sabrina Richardson-Williams. Present were DDA Chairwoman Rosemary Loria, Vice-Chairman Gary Snarski, Secretary James Higgerson, and Mayor Kerreen Conley.

Chairwoman Loria announced that they would go on with the meeting anyway, getting information and discussing items, but they could make no decisions. They couldn't approve the official minutes of the July 15 meeting or pay the bills.

Rob Eggers of the Spicer Group was on hand with a PowerPoint presentation. He reminded the DDA that they are required to have a Development Plan in place and a Tax Increment Financing plan in place. Their present chart ends in 2015, so they have work to do.

He said, by law, 14 things have to be included in the plan and he can handle most of the details, but the DDA has to decide what it wants to do with the tax money coming in.

He said the DDA is in effect up to 2029 or when it is done with the bonded indebtedness or it could be later.

Eggers went over what the DDA has done in the past and some of the items that it hadn't done yet. Those not done included Victory Park upgrades with arborist, City Center, Gateway Projects, Municipal Marina, Municipal Project, fishing pier, Village Park Pavilion, park amenities and irrigation for the parks.

He said he will write the proposed projects in a generalized nature. If something isn't on the list, it can't be done, so being generalized is best.

He said they needed brainstorming on the Belleville community.

He suggested improving pedestrian connections to all the surrounding townships and community so people can get to Belleville without driving.

"You start in the core and work your way out and they will work on it," he said.

DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson

(continued on page 19)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Surprise: Freedom of Speech still alive in Van Buren Twp.

Surprise, surprise. Freedom of Speech still is alive and well in America – and in Van Buren Township, too.

Although no announcement was made at Tuesday's regular VBT board meeting about whether it was OK for the public to talk about the upcoming millage vote, Don Schoenberger pried it out of Supervisor Linda Combs.

At the last VBT meeting, Trustee Jeff Jahr, an attorney who should have known better, asked Supervisor Combs to make a rule that the public couldn't talk about the millage at board meetings.

Combs immediately agreed and said there would be no talk by the public about the upcoming millage election.

Trustees Miller and McClanahan were appalled, as was Clerk Wright and all three said so.

When pressed by Schoenberger on Tuesday, Combs said she should have brought the attorney's opinion with her, but she recalls it said the board does not have the power to limit the content of the public's speech.

The public can talk about whatever subject they want to, she said, adding, "as long as it is germane to township business."

OK, folks, you can talk all you want to about the millage or read the phone book, if you want – as long as it's within the three-minute limitation. We're sure she's wrong about the "germane" part.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW ...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A Van Buren Township police officer shared that police officers these days are feeling that they are being treated like the Vietnam veterans when they returned from battle. No respect. And, it's hard.

He said he and another officer were having lunch at Leo's on Monday and had been having a really bad day. When they finished, they were told somebody had paid for their lunches. Warmed their hearts! Of course, they couldn't help but investigate. They uncovered the anonymous woman who paid for their lunch and thanked her.

***

A reader called to alert other readers about the newest scam in town. The calls come to business numbers from a very professional-sounding man who says he is from DTE and it will be shutting off the business' power in a few hours for non-payment.

A 58-year-old man in Sumpter Township got the call at his business last Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. His wife answered the phone and then ran outside and got him after the caller explained the emergency.

He was told to take an exact amount, about $1,700 cash, to Walmart or CVS in Belleville and to send it to Express Payment Services, 1-888-736-7772 ext. 108. The businessman told the caller he was looking at his check register and he is all paid up, but the man said DTE's processing machine was down for four months and didn't credit him. They were shutting off his power at 4:30 p.m. if he didn't pay now.

He hung up and called DTE, who told him it was a scam going around. He called CVS and the manager told him they were aware of the scam and have informed all

their employees, but "one of them did get by," he said.

He called Walmart, but nobody was there to talk to him so he called the next day. The lady at Walmart said they didn't know anything about it, but she would spread the word among employees at the service desk.

"It breaks your heart to hear that 'one of them did get by,'" our caller said. "It almost makes you want to do a fund raiser to help them." She is the sister of the businessman who was called and she was helping him make his phone calls. She said it could have been a senior citizen that was scammed And, the man who calls is really intimidating.

Late in the week, she said her place of business in the city of Belleville got a couple calls from DTE that started out saying it was an important call. She just hung up.

***

From what I remember, in March 2013 the Van Buren Township Board discussed at length the upcoming paving of the parking lot around the township hall. One of the things mentioned was the employee entry at the back of the building and some of the changes employees would like to see on the parking lot layout.

It was at the work/study meeting on the subject that it was mentioned that police were parking their cars up next to the building at night when the building was closed and the parking lot empty. Someone said they shouldn't do that.

All this is to say that when Sgt. Marc Abdilla testified to such a policy in the hearing on Lianne Clair's parking ticket it rang a bell in my memory about night parking in that area.

***

Brian Blackburn from the Belleville Fire Department read the article on Terry Mills last week and sent us an email:

"Just wanted to add something to that regarding the bandage you noted in the article. We ran into a similar situation here last year and BPD Officer Greg Beech had the trauma bandage, aka the Israeli bandage, with him and showed it to us after the call. I did some research on it and was most impressed with its capabilities. We found them much cheaper than the $40 and ordered a small and large one for each of our medical rigs and trained all BFD members on how to use them. Thankfully we have not had to use them so far."

***

The VBT board was assured during its work/study meeting on Monday that the contractors will work together with the school district to make sure the school buses can pick up the kids during road construction on Dewitt, Jeanette, and Venetian this fall.

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Letters

Time to take the senior well-being survey

To the Editor:

Greetings to all the senior citizens living in the city of Belleville, Sumpter Township, and Van Buren Township.

As mentioned in a July edition of the *Belleville–Area Independent* newspaper, I am conducting a survey to assess the well-being of senior citizens in our area, as part of a school research project. Approval from the Argosy University IRB board has been granted, survey packets prepared, and the study will be open for your participation from Monday, Aug. 31, to Monday, Sept. 21, 2015.

The purpose of this research is two-fold. First, to foster a greater understanding of the occurrence, characteristics, and the effects associated with elderly experiences of depression and loneliness; and secondly, to ascertain how social support through family, friends, church, and community activities mediated these aspects for the elderly person living in the 48111 area.

NOTE: You do not have to feel lonely or depressed to complete this survey. The only requirements are that you are age 60 or older and live in the 48111 area.

You can obtain a survey packet by mail, email, or by picking one up at the Sumpter Community Senior Center or Van Buren September Days Senior Center. To receive one by mail or email, call Angela Hill at (734) 461-2326 or (734) 218-2912. You can also email your request: hill.angela@comcast.net or angelahill@stu.argosy.edu

Angela Hill
Sumpter Township

Huge thank you to Honey Pest Control

To the Editor:

Summer is coming to a close and fall is slowly creeping in which means cooler temperatures, high school football games, and BEES, especially yellow jackets and I know this first-hand because this past week as I was doing some field maintenance I discovered that some of these yellow jackets built a home in one of our storage sheds.

My first-hand experience is that these bees do not like to be disturbed and they told me so by stinging me three times. Thankfully, I am not allergic to bee stings, but so many people are allergic which could result in real health concerns.

Needing to take care of these bees immediately, the vice president of VBALL Jason Lommerse called his friend JC Honey, owner/operator of the Honey Pest Control here in Belleville. Not only did Mr. Honey come over within an hour of our phone call during his busy season, but he also provided us with his services absolutely for FREE, stating he was more than happy to donate his services to the Van Buren Area Little League and its players.

Anyone who needs help with bees, spiders, or other pests, I urge you to place your trust with JC Honey and the Honey Pest Control. You will not be disappointed. Mr. Honey can be reached at (734) 699-6889. Thank you very much for helping keep our ball players safe.

Thank you,
Marc Littleson, president
Van Buren Area Little League

Car Club hosts car show to benefit 4-H Club

To the Editor:

America Most Wanted Car Club of Canton (AMWCC) hosted a car show on Aug. 8, at the Wayne County Fair Grounds, right here in Belleville. All the proceeds go to the 4-H.

We would like to thank all the participants that came out. We had a great time and participants actually got to visit the fair grounds and see all the attractions. Without you there would be no car show.

We want to thank our DJ Paul Peters of South Lyon who did a terrific job. Also, Larry and Patty Webb of Canton for handling the registration. Royce Ramsey of Wayne for picking the classifications and winners. Wayne County Fair Association, Ronald Young of Belleville, John Wilkerson of Pinckney and Royce Ramsey for set-up and tear-down

We also would like to thank our sponsors because without them the car show would not be what it is.

Ace Hardware of Sumpter Township, America's Most Wanted Car Club (AMWCC), Atchinson Ford of Belleville, Benito's Pizza Parlor of Sumpter Township, Egan's Pub of Belleville, Gulf Auto Lube of Belleville, Johnny's Bar & Grill on the Lake of Belleville, MIAT College of Technology of Canton, O'Reilly Auto Parts of Belleville, Parkside Credit Union of Livonia & Westland, and Wayne County Fair Association, Inc.

Hope to see everyone next year.

Richard & Sharon Pokerwinski
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VBT to test sirens for 3 minutes on Saturday

The Van Buren Township Police Department will test the township-wide emergency sirens for three minutes at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 5.

Director of Public Safety Greg Laurain said they plan to do the three-minute test at 1 p.m. on the first Saturday in September every year from now on.

Since the sirens were installed this year, the test on the first Saturday of each month has been for one minute at 1 p.m. and there had been no three-minute test to see if that emergency cycle worked, as well.

"Out of clutter, find simplicity."
– Albert Einstein

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Obituaries

Donald Frank Carpenter

DONALD FRANK CARPENTER
(September 14, 1928 – August 28, 2015)
Donald Frank Carpenter of Britton, Michigan, surrounded by his loving family and under the care of Hospice of Lenawee, passed away on August 28, 2015.
Don was born in Van Buren Township/Wayne County on September 14, 1928 to Emory and Mary (Mae) Carpenter. After his tour of duty in the navy, Don worked as a plumber for Ellis Amerman, worked 27 years as a pipefitter at the Rawsonville Ford plant, and then retired to work with wife Phyllis as co-owners of Herb Hang Up, a dried flower business that allowed them to travel and sell their arrangements at craft shows across the country.
Don loved running his beagles at the Southern Michigan Beagle Club, playing the harmonica, listening to big band music and anything to do with trains.
Don is survived by wife Phyllis; daughters Cynthia (White), Amy (Cattell); son Mark; and sisters Fay, Beryl and Claire. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Doris and brother Lynn. Don was 86 when he passed.
In keeping with Donald's wishes, a simple cremation was arranged.
The family requests that flowers not be sent. Instead, well-wishers are encouraged to send donations to Hospice of Lenawee, 1903 Wolf Creek Hwy, Adrian, MI 49221.
Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com .

JOANN KAY CLELLAND
(November 23, 1960 – August 25, 2015)
Joann Kay Clelland, age 54, of Belleville, passed away August 25, 2015.
Loving wife of Kenneth P. Clelland. Dearest mother of Chris, Brandi, Kyle, Amber, Justin, and Kenny. Dear grandmother of 14. She is also survived by 3 sisters. She is preceded in death by her parents Arthur and Lois Helwig.
Funeral service was 3 p.m. Friday, August 28, at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home (next to Michigan Memorial Park), 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation was Friday, 1-3 p.m. Her cremation took place at "The Witness Crematory" located inside of Michigan Memorial Funeral Home.

REV. STANLEY WAYNE CARTER
(May 10, 1942– August 26, 2015)
Age 73 of Van Buren Township. Survived by wife Elizabeth, son Reuben, grandson Samuel. Service held Sept. 1 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Entombment in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock.

PAUL JAMES ELWART
(January 26, 1947– August 22, 2015)
Age 68 of Sumpter Township. Served in Vietnam in 1968. Survived by children Raymond, Jeffrey, Monique; 9 grandchildren; brothers Clifford, Kenneth. Sumpter Chapel. Janowiakfuneralhome.com

ANNIE (SWIASTYN) GRISHABER
(October 7, 1917– August 25, 2015)
Age 97, of Carleton. Survived by sons Harry, Jerry, Richard; 7 granddaughters; 11 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren; a brother, David Swiastyn. Janowiak Funeral Home. www.janowiakfuneralhome.com .

19-month-old child dies after being hit by vehicle in Sumpter Township

On Monday at about 5:25 p.m., Sumpter Township Police were called to the 40000 block of Harris Road on the report of a child being struck by a vehicle.

Sumpter Police Captain Eric Luke said police found a 19-month-old male toddler had been gravely injured. The child was treated by a Sumpter Township Fire Department crew before being transported to a nearby hospital by Huron Valley Ambulance.

Despite the life-saving efforts, the child succumbed to his injuries, Captain Luke said.

"Our heartfelt condolences go out to the child's family during this difficult time," Captain Luke said.

The vehicle driver, a 59-year-old Sumpter Township resident, stopped immediately and is cooperating fully in the investigation. The Sumpter Township Police Department was assisted on the scene by the traffic crash reconstruction unit of the Michigan State Police. No further information will be released at this time, Luke said.

VBT Police seek arson warrant for Sumpter man in July 28 blaze

A 31-year-old Sumpter man was taken into custody Monday night by the Van Buren Township Police in connection with the July 28 fire at 6040 Victoria in Wagon Wheel mobile home park.

Lt. Charles Bazzy said they are seeking a warrant on arson charges after Detective Donovan McCarthy completed a long investigation.

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More Letters

Thanks all who helped with Men's Club outing

To the Editor:

The fourth-annual St. Anthony Men's Club golf outing held Saturday, Aug. 1, was a great success and a lot of fun.

This year's foursome winners were Norm Wisniewski, Steve Hadrich, Darrin Kakola, and Justin Martinson.

Thanks to the following businesses and individuals who have either sponsored a hole and/or donated toward our Chinese raffle:

Jack Demmer Ford, Atchinson Ford, Lodge Lanes, Lou LaRitch Chevrolet, Mark Chevrolet, Belleville A&W Root Beer, David C. Brown Funeral Home, Salisbury Landscape, Drake Team Realty, Edward Jones Financial, Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, Belleville Meijer's, Sumpter Collision, Egan's Pub, Loranger Family Chiropractic, Peter Pitzen, Belleville Hardware, Mr. Muffler, Garden Fantasy on Main Street, Cocoa Beach, Great Clips, DiPietro and Day P.C., Blade's Hair Salon, KP&T Auto Service, Dos Pesos, Twisted Rooster, Willis Market / Benito's Pizza Parlor of Sumpter, Happy's Pizza, Firekeepers Casino, Fellows Creek Golf Course, Pepsi, DeBuck's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch, US Ecology, Western Wayne County Community College, Discount Pool and Spas, and A Design Line Embroidery.

Men's Club
St. Anthony Catholic Church

Invited to Wednesday-evening Bible Study

To the Editor:

The women from "Feed Your Body, Feed Your Soul," the Wednesday evening Bible study at First United Methodist Church, recently collected dozens of back-to-school items for local kids.

This group always completes a "service project" at the end of their study. The most-recent readings were from Rick Warren's book "God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions."

The next group study will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 6 p.m. This time the material will be "The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life," also by Rick Warren.

Everyone is welcome to join us. The meeting runs one hour and is held at the church, located at 417 Charles St. in Belleville. For more information please contact Joy Dubin at (734) 218-3634.

Thank you,
Kelly Boelter, Sumpter Township

Bad judgment in paving Fenster subdivision

To the Editor:

Wouldn't you have thought the money should have been spent on Judd Road from Sumpter to Rawsonville – where so many people would have benefitted from it?

We have a one-lane bridge culvert on Karr Road that turns into a hell hole on the first rain and people fight with each other to get through – or roads from Judd and Sumpter. Roads to Belleville railroad tracks where garbage trucks busted out years ago, or Willis Road from Willis and Sherwood to Rawsonville Road. Trees, bushes hanging over the roads, all in township.

Bull crap plan.

William Allen
Sumpter Township

If the people don't speak up, you will get nothing done.

Birthdays

Sept. 3 – Mary Posegay, Alexander Chudzinski
Sept. 7 – Ryan Laginess
Sept. 20 – Lois Cox, Lila White
Sept. 22 – Jim Posegay, Luke White
Sept. 25 – Hugh McArthur
Sept. 28 – Bob Kauska

Do you have a birthday in September? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

Lighthouse Church closes on purchase

To the Editor:

What started as a rental, transformed into a purchase with Belleville Lighthouse Worship Center purchasing the former Power Center Church at 16650 Sumpter Road, Belleville.

Pastor Jim Lockard and Pastor Bob Lafferty were excited to be at the closing on Thursday, Aug. 6.

Pastor Jim said, "Today highlights a new chapter in our church. We are going to use the bigger, newer facility, to extend our community outreach" through children and youth programs, men's and women's groups and retreats, addiction recovery and family support groups, seniors luncheons and activities, basketball leagues and other sports. The new facility will also be available for rental for wedding receptions, business meetings, craft shows, concerts, etc.

In July, Belleville Lighthouse Worship Center had a benefit and dedication service attended by over 350 people. The fundraiser was one of the first steps to welcome the community into their new home. The next big community outreach is the upcoming Harvest Fest in October. Harvest Fest will have hayrides, games, food, music, bonfire, and more.

When asked, "What will happen to your old facility?" Pastor Jim answered with, "We are still trying to sell or rent our church building at 51185 Willis Road. We hired Religious Real Estate (734-604-6222) to market the property. We want to have another church blessed the way we have been blessed."

Bill Skubik
Religious Real Estate

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EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the upcoming Labor Day Holiday, ALL ads must be submitted by 4 p.m. Friday, 9/4/15. The office will be closed Monday, 9/7/15.

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Orphan of the Week

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

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More Letters

I will do everything in my power to defeat tax

Editor's Note: The following is a statement read to the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees at its Aug. 18 meeting and submitted for publication:

I absolutely hate that I have to be here tonight.

Good evening. My name is Don Schoenberger and I have lived in this community for some 25 years. There will be no need for a ski mask tonight as I will say what I mean and mean what I say.

I think we have one of the finest public safety departments and director in the country and I support them 100%. That being said, I am extremely disappointed in our supervisor and any board member that supports this tax increase. I am also disappointed that you are insulting our intelligence by going for the 6.5-mill tax and not put the 4-mill continuation on the ballot once it expires.

I think that is a big mistake and you will all regret that decision. I am also dumbfounded by comments made that we have very reasonable taxes now, so why not raise them. What a stupid statement. When do our taxes become unreasonable? And, by the way, what is wrong with reasonable taxes? Once they become unreasonable, what do we do, move out of the township?

The audacity of our supervisor comparing her tax rate to try to demonstrate the minimal increase and that you are planning for 2018. Well, I do not believe you are considering when new families move in and will be hit with a much higher rate than people that have lived here for many years, like you, supervisor.

Trustee Jahr: Sell your palatial estate on Harmony Lane and buy another home of equal value and tell me what your new property tax would be. We are protected by Prop A for homesteaders limiting the increase yearly. Also, tell me what the taxes would go to when the new family buys your home over and above what you are paying now. Has anyone done the numbers on new home buyers and what they will be paying?

We are already going to be burdened by legacy costs of people retiring at outlandish sums because of the blended rate fiasco we all have to live with.

I also read that you might have to consider another tax increase to cover costs associated to the Visteon deal. Wow, raise taxes. Anyone can do that. When is enough enough? What do we do when new families will not move into this township because they cannot afford the taxes? That will affect all that ever want to sell their homes.

I will do everything in my power to defeat this tax increase and align myself with people that I thought I would never align myself with. We built the new high school to attract families. I am a senior and I am not the future. The kids are.

You wrote that you have exhausted all other resources, but not one explanation of what the alternatives were that you sought. You promised transparency and all I see are translucent and clouded explanations.

You are using public safety as a scare tactic and that is reprehensible. When does the threat of drastic cuts to public safety come that will endanger all of us? I am sure that will come. If cuts have to be made, so be it. Many municipalities and corporations have had to make drastic cuts and survived. Live within a budget that you all set in place or don't bother wasting time doing a budget. Why don't you initiate a pay cut across the board, if we are in such need?

The City of Detroit had the Joe Louis fist as a symbol of strength. I hope this board's legacy is not that you leave us with one of the fingers.

Supervisor, I never thought I would say this, but if this is the best you can come up with, you need to resign and let someone more qualified run the township.

Good grief and good night.

Fund raisers set to help 2-year-old Liam

To the Editor:

I wonder if you can help me.

I've been a resident of the area for around 12 years. Over this time I have often read in your paper, letters of thanks to people and local businesses.

I would very much like to do the same.

On July 6, our 2-year-old grandson Liam was diagnosed with stage-4 neuroblastoma. The cancer has metastasized to his liver, lungs, and bones.

A week before this, his father lost his job. Needless to say, the weeks following have been difficult for Liam and family.

As I pen this, he is undergoing his second round of chemo at Mott Children's hospital in Ann Arbor.

Our first thank-you is to them, the doctors, nurses, staff and volunteers of Mott particularly the oncology ward. We cannot begin to express our heartfelt gratitude for performing extremely difficult jobs with care and devotion, not just for the patients but also to the family and friends.

Our next thank-you is to the local businesses, our neighbors, and residents of Belleville and the surrounding communities for the generous donations and fund-raising activities. We have never witnessed such generosity, and willingness to help from a community.

I would like to give a special mention to a few key supporters: Buffalo Wild Wings – Ypsilanti, O2BA Kid, Hidalgo's, Petland – Novi, Angels of Hope, and

Ypsilanti Moose Lodge #782 – **spaghetti dinner fund raiser Sept. 12**, 1-10 p.m., and

Leo's Coney Island (across from Meijer) – **fund raiser Aug. 20**, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

There are many others that have donated items for auction at the spaghetti dinner. We would like to thank all involved once we have a complete list.

Thank you,
Tony Walsh
Sumpter Township Resident

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More Letters

VBT command officers invited to resign

To the Editor:

This is regarding the letter from the VBT Police Officers Labor Council, (POLC), Command Officers that you printed on Aug. 27. These officers filed a union grievance and it was addressed at the Step II level by Deputy Director Jason Wright, as follows:

TO: Lieutenant M. Buckberry, POLC Command President

FROM: Deputy Director Jason J. Wright

RE: *Written Denial Response to the Submitted Grievance*

On July 15, 2015 at approximately 10 a.m., I met with you in my office to discuss your position concerning grievance 15-08. You presented me with the attached grievance and the signatures of all of your members (POLC Command Unit) requesting voluntary demotions to the rank of patrol officer for each member. I must note that Sergeant B. Devos was on vacation during this time; however by proxy he confirmed he also wished to be demoted.

You explained to me in great detail that your association's request was not an easy decision to make, and you also presented me the attached letter outlining the events that have led up to the current situation concerning the increases in your portion of the pension contributions to MERS.

As I see it, your membership's request to take voluntary demotions is solely due to the financial impact your members are experiencing with their portion of the MERS contribution which is currently at 12.26%. Going forward your membership's contribution is being increased to 15.45% on Jan. 1, 2016 causing all of the sergeants to take home 1.45% less in pay than that of a patrol officer.

I can understand your position; however I need each one of my command officers in place to run the daily operations of the police department. Currently, the police department does not have a promotional list established with any available candidates. Currently, there are no open positions in road patrol for anyone to drop back to.

Items under Dispute:

1. You have cited that management has violated *Article XXIV Anti-Discrimination Clause*. When I denied your membership's request to be voluntarily demoted, I did not deny it on any discriminatory basis concerning religious beliefs, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, handicap, or sexual orientation. I denied your request because the department must have leadership, accountability, checks and balances, direction, mission focus and order must be maintained within our organizational structure. Therefore, I see no violation of your collective bargaining agreement concerning Article XXIV Anti-Discrimination Clause.

2. The grievance cited that the *Employment Policy and Affirmative Action* as outlined in the Van Buren Township Employee Personnel Policies Manual was violated. Affirmative action has nothing to do with this matter; therefore I am denying this claim.

3. The *Equal Pay Act* was cited as being violated. It is my understanding that the Equal Pay Act addresses the issue of men and women who have the same employer and the same job receive equal pay. The Equal Pay Act has nothing to do with the command unit requesting voluntary demotions.

4. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the *Employee Retirement Income Security Act* (ERISA) is a federal law that sets minimum standards for most voluntarily established pension and health plans in private industry to provide protection for individuals in these plans. The ERISA requires plans to provide participants with plan information including important information about plan features and funding; provides fiduciary responsibilities for those who manage and control plan assets; requires plans to establish a grievance and appeals process for participants to get benefits from their plans; and gives participants the right to sue for benefits and breaches of fiduciary duty. The POLC Command unit's pension is a government pension which is outside of private industry for which the ERISA was enacted to protect. Again, the voluntary demotion denial has nothing to do with the ERISA.

5. Under *Article II* Management Rights the grievance asserts that the employer has the right and ability to replace supervisors within the command unit and that the employer is over stepping their management rights clause by forcing members to remain in the command unit. The grievance claims that the employer has the ability to fill these vacancies; however refuses to do so causing a financial burden to current members within the command unit.

I am denying your assertion that management is over stepping their authority. The Management Right Clause in the collective bargaining agreement states clearly, "It is recognized that government and management of the Township, control and management of its properties and the maintenance of municipal functions and operations are reserved to the Employer..." Management also has the, "right to decide the number of employees, to create or eliminate positions, normally performed within the unit, the right to hire, lay-off, assign, transfer and promote employees..." The police department currently does not have any open positions in road patrol, nor does it have an established promotional list for sergeants or lieutenants.

Management's decision to deny mass voluntary demotions of the entire command unit was made based on the best interest of the Township, the department and the citizens we serve. Our experienced street tested command unit is an important and necessary part of the Police Department's organizational structure, therefore I am not willing to dissect it, and I am evoking management right. Therefore *I* am *denying your Step* II grievance on this matter.

If you wish to appeal my decision please refer to your collective bargaining agreement for your Step III process.

Jason J. Wright

Deputy Director Police Operations

Cc: Director Gregory M. Laurain"

Step III of the grievance procedure would have been to consult with the Supervisor, but since the Union has chosen to address its issues in the public forum, we will do so also. Because there was a pending grievance, we feel that publishing the letter has compromised our position in this matter. The publication of the grievance also indicates that the Union does not want to go to Step III on the matter.

We believe that Deputy Director Wright has addressed each of the Union's concerns adequately and agree with his denial. Demoting all of the command officers back to the Patrol Unit is not a viable option.

Since the command officers do not want to work toward a solution, it appears that they are totally dissatisfied with working for Van Buren Township. If that is the case, regrettably, they should consider submitting letters of resignation.

Sincerely,

Van Buren Township Board of Trustees

Thanks to Belleville Fire Fighters for coming fast

To the Editor:

While you are dressed in armor of a fire fighter you seem not afraid of the risks. It doesn't seem to matter if it's raining or the ground is white with snow. When an accident or fire wins, what can anyone do when all has been destroyed – all that you have lived for – all that you would die for – now there is nothing left.

We really must thank the fire fighters and auxiliary for coming as fast as they can.

Respect is necessary to each and every one and we should always give a big thank you and help when we can, no matter the outcome.

Kay Atkins, Belleville

Belleville Community Chorus to begin fall rehearsals; singers wanted

The fall session for the Belleville Community Chorus (BCC), Inc., begins on Monday, Sept. 14.

Rehearsals are on Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Belleville United Methodist Church located at 417 Charles St., Belleville.

If you enjoy singing, the chorus invites you to join them. The BCC, with members from Belleville, Sumpter, Van Buren and other surrounding communities, welcomes singers of all ages and is always looking for new voices. Whether you are soprano, alto, tenor, bass, or not really sure, consider joining this fun and dynamic group of friends and neighbors.

If interested, please come to the first rehearsal by 6:30 p.m. so that Director Sue Hiser can place your voice in the appropriate section.

The BCC is a non-profit organization whose repertoire consists of a variety of choral music intended to provide enrichment, education, and enjoyment for both their members and audiences in the surrounding communities.

This December's concert on Saturday, Dec. 12, is particularly noteworthy because it marks the 10th year of the winter concert.

For questions or more information, call Lori Day at (734) 660-0797 or visit www.Bellevillechorus.org .

Helen Lyson celebrates her 90th birthday with family and friends

Helen (Kotlarczyk) Lyson, a long-time resident of Sumpter Township and Belleville, recently celebrated her 90th birthday at her son's house in Sumpter with family and friends.

Helen was born in Poland on Aug. 30, 1925 and came to America with her parents when she was a child. She worked at the bomber plant at Willow Run during World War II as a riveter and went on to marry Frank Lyson, Sr. and have four children and many grandchildren.

Their children are Jane Vesche, Frank Jr., Jim, and Joe.

She and Frank worked hard at selling eggs, strawberries and numerous vegetables, often selling at Eastern Market in Detroit and the farmers' market at Depot Town in Ypsilanti, along with a roadside stand in Sumpter.

Helen still lives a very productive life. She still drives, babysits her grandchildren, and attends numerous family functions.

She did not have much of a formal education, but learned to play accordion by ear, taught her children many valuable life lessons, even how to make pierogis and how to skin a muskrat, and especially how to trust in God.

Helen Lyson

Helen now resides in Chelsea, MI at the Pines retirement home where she can socialize, play pinochle, and be close to her grandchildren.

She also keeps in touch with many friends and relatives on Facebook.

-- Frank Lyson, Jr.

Jon Theisen, Cynthia Roberts marry Aug. 1 in Heritage Park

Jon Theisen and Cynthia Roberts, both aged 55, married on Aug. 1 giving love a second chance.

They met nearly four years ago via Match.com. On their second anniversary Jon took Cyndi to Ichiban in Ann Arbor, which he had done on one of their first dates, and got down on one knee and proposed. He said two years ago he asked her to be his girl and tonight he's asking her to be his wife.

The wedding was held at the Little Chapel in Heritage Park in Taylor. The bride's cousin, children, and grandchildren were the attendants. Family and friends welcomed the marriage of two hearts becoming one. Following the ceremony an afterglow party was held at Club Canton where the couple danced and celebrated with family and friends.

The Theisens will be celebrating their honeymoon on a cruise to San Juan, St. Kitts, St. Maarten, and one of their favorite places, Hollywood Beach, FL.

Jon and Cyndi reside in Sumpter Township and will soon to moving to North Carolina to settle in for their retirement years and be nearer to his daughter Jamie Theisen who is currently serving in the U.S. Navy.

More Letters

Toth explains her stance on exit interviews

To the Editor:

Since I have been asked by name in this paper to explain my opinion on "exit interviews" for school staff members who leave, I will do so. Despite the fact that this issue has been raised repeatedly by one trustee, the suggestion to put it on an agenda has never received a second, and I recently ventured the opinion that it never would. This is my personal explanation for why I believe that.

1. It is not a real issue. People leave their jobs for many reasons, not just one. We do interview all of those who leave us, but — more importantly for the functioning of the district — our staff have many opportunities and forums to express opinions and make suggestions *before* they are at the point of leaving.

There has been no alarming exodus. The average number of teachers leaving the district during the past four years has actually been *lower* than for the previous five years. There was a spike in non-tenured teachers leaving. We realized that our hiring practices needed improvement, and we implemented a new system (with input from multiple stakeholders and with relevant decision criteria), as well as providing more specific support and training for new teachers.

I ask those who were alarmed at the number of new teachers who were not renewed or who chose to resign last year: do you think we should keep new teachers who have, after one or two years, shown themselves to be a poor fit for our students and our schools? Why would we not hold out for the best possible staff? What, if not this, is the purpose of a probationary period?

2. The focus on the "work environment" and on teacher stress levels distracts us from what should and must be our first priority: are we providing the educational service that our community's children need and deserve? The answer, as demonstrated by multiple measures of effectiveness, is clearly "no." My own children were well served by their 13 years apiece in our schools, and I would venture to guess that most of the children of the parents who have expressed concern over employee attrition are also well served. But the instructional techniques that work for children who arrive at school well prepared and who are well supported at home simply have not been working for children without those privileges. That is why, in a community where there is great demographic diversity, such as ours today, there is typically a large gap in student performance between the highest 30% and the lowest 30%.

This single gap measurement (the "Z score") is a primary factor in the "top to bottom" rankings of all schools in the state. It is how the "bottom 5%" are labeled as "priority" schools subject to state takeover, restructuring, and closure. Another 5% are labeled "focus" schools. As the Michigan Department of Education explains, "A Focus School might be performing above the state average in average achievement, and may even have robust gains in student achievement from year to year, [but] students in the bottom 30% within the school are performing at a level significantly below the top 30% within the school." That is why even the excellent Ann Arbor Public School district has 18 Focus Schools.

One Van Buren school was a focus school (but is no longer), one is now (as is Keystone Academy), and two are in danger of being so labeled in the near future. [Editor's Note: According to an August report from the Michigan Department of Education, Tyler and McBride are still Focus schools and Keystone has been released from that designation.] Some are even in danger of getting the dreaded "Priority" label that can lead to the firing of principal and staff, or even to closure. These ratings are done using three years of state testing data. Because of the change in state tests, the labeling of Focus and Priority Schools has been suspended until the fall of 2017. This gives us a small window of time in which to dramatically improve the achievement of our lowest performing students and thus to reduce the performance gap that brings on the labeling and the drastic consequences associated with it.

Of course, we want all of our children to be successful for their own sakes, as that is our core purpose. And we are unaware of any schools restructured or replaced under this system that have actually been more successful than the previous schools. We believe that, with concentrated application of research-validated techniques, we can rapidly increase student learning.

It is important to note HOW this will be done, however. It will *not* be done by selectively culling students who bring down performance averages (as has notably been done in the New Orleans Recovery School District, for example). We have no intention of gaming the system to produce the required statistics.

If you do not change the student population and you cannot give them the preschool preparation and ongoing home support they require, what *will* work? One thing only: different and more effective teaching practices. In order to improve student performance rapidly and dramatically, we must improve teacher performance just as much and as quickly. This emphatically does *not* mean that our teachers are incompetent. What it does mean is that, in too many cases, their practice has not adapted to the changing demographics of the district. They need a new "bag of tricks" to deal effectively with new challenges.

Imagine the stress this will cause teachers and principals — we are saying that the status quo must change radically, which means they *will* and *should* be taken out of their comfort zone. That is unavoidable, if we are not to continue to fail a large portion of the students we serve. And NO ONE wants to do that.

We have been methodically putting into place the components of an educational system that truly allows all children to be successful, to live up to their individual potential and become productive adults. We have been establishing logically sequenced curricula, valid common assessments, time for teachers to collaborate, training in data analysis, and ongoing, embedded

(continued on page 13)

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More Letters

(continued from page 12)

(that is, within the school day) professional development. When our own assessments reveal significant differences in results achieved, the most effective teachers have been sharing techniques with the less effective teachers. Subject-matter experts provide in-classroom modeling and coaching; this school year, we will provide more of those mentor coaches, at all grade levels.

And, occasionally, someone will decide to retire early or to leave because these expectations are too much for them. This happened when we involuntarily moved many teachers to address persistent problems at one of our schools — some staff members preferred to leave us. Yet student performance at that school has made remarkable progress since. Should student learning not be our top priority?

Changing adult professional practice is the only way for us to change student outcomes. Change is difficult and uncomfortable, but for us it was absolutely necessary. Supt. Van Tassel has pushed the staff's learning curve, exactly as he said he would in an interview before we hired him. If we had stuck to a "comfortable" rate of change, one-third of this generation of our children would have missed their one shot at a great education.

"We are here for the kids" is not just a slogan, it is our reason for existing. If we are not here for them, we do not deserve to survive.

Martha Toth (VBPS School Board Vice President, but speaking only for myself)

A new perspective: How about 'loser pays' law?

To the Editor:

Immediately, after the shooting of the two reporters, the gun control advocates renewed their cry for more gun control laws. However, they acknowledge that they don't know exactly how to fashion a law that would have prevented this incident because the killer passed a background test and purchased the gun legally. This is another example of trying to fulfill an agenda (gun control) without giving consideration to a real solution for the specific problem.

The facts in the case reveal a very angry and disturbed individual who was able to go from job to job even though he was unstable and a problem employee. This happens because employers are too reluctant to be honest as to why he no longer works for them when the next prospective employer seeks information about the person. Why does this happen? Why, after all the facts are revealed, was he able to obtain employment with this TV station? Why, after he had to be escorted from the employer's premises when he was dismissed for being unruly and making threats against other employees, was he still able to pass a background check?

In our litigious society, employers refuse to be open and honest about a person's work record because they fear being sued if they say anything negative about a former employee. It is very expensive to defend a lawsuit, even if the facts are on your side. It is much safer and expeditious to give a generic response to an inquiry, avoiding the truth, thus preventing reprisal in the form of a lawsuit. So they wash their hands of the problem and the employee gets another job and becomes another company's problem. And the problem repeats itself again and again.

This problem could be greatly eliminated if congress passed a law requiring "loser pays" in the case of frivolous lawsuits. Assume a disgruntled employee is fired and the truth of why was revealed to a prospective new employer preventing his hiring. If he sues the former employer as a result, he would have to pay their legal costs if he did not win his lawsuit against them. "Loser pays." How many lawsuits would be prevented from clogging courts if this were the case? Such honesty would permit a record to be established showing the employee has serious problems. This should be sufficient to prevent a person from passing the background check, currently required, to purchase a gun. Problem solved.

The second problem in this specific case was his conduct upon his dismissal from the TV station. It is reported that five police officers were involved in his removal from the employer's workplace due to his unruly and threatening conduct. Why did the employer or the police not press charges against him? Again, I believe it is a direct result of not wanting to be subjected to the potential of a lawsuit. The result is they are able to wash their hands of the problem and he maintains a clean police record permitting him to pass the background check and purchase the weapon. Would a charge of disorderly conduct on his record have prevented him from being able to purchase the gun? How about the threat of reprisal against the other employees? Problem solved.

Once again, the potential threat of a lawsuit shapes our thinking and we opt to be content to be "rid of the problem" rather than deal with the truth. This has to change. A "loser pays" law could change our thinking and permit the truth about a disturbed individual to become part of their record for the world to see. This would be a step forward in preventing such individuals from committing the kinds of senseless killings we are witnessing. Perhaps it is time to find a "solution" to the problem, rather than just promoting an agenda.

Gerald E. McKelvey
Van Buren Township

Response to Angela Nettro's comments

To the Editor:

Medium home values in Wayne County have declined -2.5% over the past year and *Zillow predicts a further decline of -0.1% within the next year. For the period January through June 2016 the median home value in Wayne County is $55,000.

Meanwhile, median home prices have risen slightly in Van Buren Township to $144,000 which is a 2% growth over the previous year. The taxable value for a home in this price range would be $72,000 and at 4.9144 mills the tax revenue to Van Buren Township would be $353.84 annually, or 0.97 cents per day.

Again, this is relatively inexpensive as far as local Wayne County tax assessments go. And when considering the services that the township provides to residents and senior citizens it's downright cheap! Anyone can look up this information at *www.Zillow.com, Wayne county, Michigan – Home Prices & Home Values.

Certainly Ms. Angela Nettro, "having been in the local real estate market for many years," is well aware that the usual, and most adaptable, measurements for tax valuations are often mentioned in increments beginning at $100,000. Simple arithmetic can easily be applied to any actual tax assessment and a true figure will then be realized. For general purposes the most obvious measurement by which the public can quickly convert individual taxable values when using this number ($100,000) as the starting point, is simply for convenience sake.

As far as the threat that she implies, "some of her clients are telling her that if taxes go up again they will have to move because they won't be able to afford it here anymore," I wonder where they will go that is less taxable than it is here in Van Buren Township? Let me know, please, as right now I'm looking at areas around Southeast Michigan and can't find anywhere better.

Ms. Nettro seems to be rallying to the cause of the former supervisor, Paul White, who is constantly exaggerating the actual tax burden for Van Buren Township residents. Even at 6.5 mills for the Public Safety Department a $72,000 assessment would cost just $468/year or $1.28/day. Compare that to the other taxes on the Van Buren Township-Wayne County Tax Schedule and it will amount to just 19.6% of all taxes.

The everyday operation of the township offices will still remain at just 2.7% of the total taxes collected or just 0.67 cents/day. That means that 78% of all taxes collected will go to the various other obligations that we citizens have voted to fund. Ms. Nettro should take a hard look at this other 78% for the real wasted tax dollars!

CeJay Marshall, Van Buren Township

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6130 Rawsonville Rd.,Belleville, MI 48111
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SPACE #A-16, Jenny Stevens; **SPACE #A-12**, Jauron Grantham; **SPACE #D-18,** Matthew Gibbings; **SPACE #I-16,** James Eckert
Most of these units contain household items, furniture, appliances, wall cabinets for kitchen, a collector stove, old typewriter, toys, train sets, and misc. boxes and totes.

Publish: September 3, 2015

WHITWSORTH ESTATE AUCTION. September 12, 2015 @ 10:00 am. 24801 Carleton West Road, New Boston, MI. 1962 MG Convertible-1965 Ford Galaxie 500XL 2 Door-1965 Mercury Park Lane. Petroliana, antiques, tools & much, much more. Check Website for more info & pictures. Braunandhelmer.com Estate of G. William "Whit" Whitworth. Preview & inspection at 9:00 a.m. Check or cash with I.D. Questions call Brian Braun (734) 368-1736. BRAUN & HELMER AUCTION SERVICE, INC. 9/10

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YELLOW PELICAN kayak disappeared on August 27 in Rawsonville area. (734) 740-3603. 9/17

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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– George Orwell

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The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

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"We are all born ignorant, but one must work hard to remain stupid."
– Benjamin Franklin

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Augusta Woods manufactured home community on Rawsonville Road at Bemis Road is gearing up for its annual community-wide yard sale Sept. 11-13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

***

Our Father's Child Care at **111 South Street** would like to wish grandparents well on official **Grandparents' Day** Sept. 13 and to stop by to their Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe to sample some candy and holiday coffee Sept. 12-13 during regular business hours.

***

RK Automotive Complete Auto Care will be holding a grand opening on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at **541 East Huron River Drive** in Belleville. Located in the former site of Absolute Auto Repair, owners **Rick** and **Kathy Smith** will be offering food, entertainment, and a DJ. Also at 10 a.m., the Belleville Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the public is invited. Regular business hours will be Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call **(734) 391-8218** and visit **wwwrkautomotive.com**.

***

The public is also invited to attend the **Belleville Chamber's** ribbon-cutting ceremony at **Maya's Mediterranean Cuisine** on Wednesday, Sept. 16, beginning at 11 a.m. They're located in the new Davenport strip mall on East Columbia Avenue.

***

I learned that the Belleville Area Little League had a bee problem recently at the Beck Road ball diamonds and called **Honey Pest Control.** Owner JC Honey arrived within the hour, took care of the problem, and didn't charge the league for his service. I can't think of a better way for a small company to give back to the community. Batter up!

***

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych with your suggestion at 734-699-9020. There is no charge to be in this column.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, Sept. 4 –** Friends Church Family Drive-in Theater FREE Movie at 8:05 p.m. At Friends Field, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis, Ypsilanti. Final night for the Drive-in. Inside Theater next. Movie: "He Knows My Name" and "Beyond the Mask." (734) 482-5074, www.friendsfamilytheater.com

• **Sunday, Sept. 6 –** Bugles Across America, 7:15 p.m., Veterans Memorial on High Street in downtown Belleville. A brief ceremony and "Taps" to honor those who served, both living and deceased.

• **Wednesday, Sept. 9 –** Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Road, New Boston, is serving a chicken dinner, 5 p.m. until sold out. Carry-outs start at 4:30 p.m. Cost is $10 per person; children 12 and under $5 each. Menu: fried chicken, mashed potatoes, biscuits & gravy, green beans, cole slaw, dessert, coffee, hot tea, milk, (734) 654-9020

• **Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12 and 13 –** Citywide yard sales in the City of Belleville. No permits required.

• **Saturday, Sept. 12 --** Fund raiser for 2-year-old Liam who is battling stage-four neuroblastoma. Ypsilanti Moose Lodge #782, 1-10 p.m. Besides spaghetti dinner, activities include live auction, bouncy castle, raffles, 50/50. Tickets $10. Grandfather Tony Walsh: (734) 660-7716

Upcoming Meetings

• Tuesday, Sept. 8 – September Days Endowment Committee, 11 a.m. Also, VBT Local Development Financing Authority, 2 p.m., Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library meeting at 7:30 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

Pick-up truck hits jogger, keeps on going in Aug. 26 accident

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Jim Patton, 68, of Van Buren Township, was out jogging at about 3:24 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, when he was hit by a green, 1995 F-150 pick-up truck. And, the truck kept on going.

Van Buren Township Police Lt. Charles Bazzy said the accident happened in front of 49510 West Huron River Drive.

He said after the driver left the scene, the driver called a friend and the friend called police and the man was taken into custody. He was held 12 hours and released pending the results of toxicology tests by the Michigan State Police lab.

Lt. Bazzy said the driver was a 35-year-old male from Cement City, MI. He said the dispatch callout for police was to assist the fire department. The actual call turned into arresting someone operating under the influence of drugs.

Lt. Bazzy said the police report listed injuries to the jogger as laceration to the head and injuries to the chest, upper right arm and upper right leg.

In a family Facebook page, Patton's injuries were listed as six broken ribs, collapsed lung, broken humerus in right arm, broken femur in right leg, and large gash on head. He had surgery the night of the accident and a second surgery was scheduled for Aug. 31.

Patton is grandfather of Belleville's reigning Strawberry Queen Ryann Patton.

Court Watching:

Judge Oakley finds Clair guilty of handicap parking, but no fine

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

"She wasn't handicapped and she did park there, so she was responsible for parking in a handicap space," said 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley, after an informal hearing for Lianne Clair of Van Buren Township on Aug. 25.

But, all fines and costs were suspended.

Judge Oakley said, "Maybe Van Buren Township needs to review its policies."

Clair, executive assistant to VBT Supervisor Linda Combs, was given a handicapped parking ticket by VBT Police Sgt. Marc Abdilla after parking in a handicapped spot behind the township hall to carry items into the building through the employee entrance. That was at 11:52 p.m. on Thursday, April 9.

Sgt. Abdilla wrote the ticket and testified at the informal hearing on Aug. 25 that there is a policy that the police can't park there at night.

Clair testified that it was her third week in her new job at the township and her boss, Supervisor Linda Combs, was off for part of the week.

The problem was the Council of Western Wayne was due to meet on April 10, the next morning, and Clair had to get everything ready for the officials who would come from many communities. They meet in VBT every 18 months for a continental breakfast before the meeting in the board room and she wanted them to have a good experience in the township.

She said she couldn't get started on the CWW meeting preparations until after work and she found the tables to be used were ragged and needed tablecloths. She also needed napkins, paper plates, muffins and donuts, flowers, and other things. She went to Walmart and purchased 177 items.

Clair said it was a very stormy night and the tornado warning was lifted while she was in Walmart.

When she got back to the township hall, she parked in front of the police station and went into the lobby. No one was at the desk so she pushed the buzzer and dispatch answered. She identified herself and then went in to talk to dispatch.

She explained about the CWW meeting in the morning and that she just got back from Walmart. She told them she was going to back up as close to the employee entrance as possible to use the overhang to keep the items dry that she was carrying in.

She went back to her vehicle pulled around to the employee entrance and unloaded. She also unloaded special glass serving pieces she brought from home to make the tables look special.

Clair said she needed a few more items from Meijer's because some things had not been available at Walmart because of the late hour.

She was part way to Meijer's when she noticed the green envelope on her windshield with a ticket in it. Clair testified she thought it was a new employee initiation and took it back to Abdilla and waved it.

She testified Abdilla told her the Public Safety Director had issued a policy and, "I don't think it's a good policy." He suggested she go see her supervisor.

She said she went on to Meijer's and got the rest of the items needed for the breakfast and parked in the same place as before.

"Once I had a ticket, I decided to use it for the rest of the evening," she testified. "The pastries needed to be dry."

On Monday, she said she took the ticket to Supervisor Combs and Combs told her to go see Public Safety Director Laurain, which she did.

Clair testified that Director Laurain told her it was not a policy, but he had sent out a memo to staff not to park in the handicapped parking area so the media wouldn't take a picture.

Judge Oakley asked Sgt. Abdilla to tell his side first and he did. Then Clair gave her side and Abdilla was asked if he had anything more to say.

"If she would have found me, I would have told her where to park," Abdilla said.

That's when Judge Oakley made his decision.

Although Magistrate Alan Hindman had been scheduled to hear the case, his daughter went into labor two weeks early and Hindman had to leave the courthouse.

Thus, Judge Oakley took over the proceedings.

According to the Register of Actions obtained from the court, the parking fee could have been $110 and the victim's fund fee $20. Case closed. No fees.

Court Watching:

Danny Ramsey freed after plea deal on stealing from Walmart

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Danny Ali-Ray Ramsey, 23, pled guilty to a charge of retail fraud-2nd from Walmart in Van Buren Township on July 30. The original charge of retail fraud was dismissed.

His case was handled under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act and his case will be deferred for 24 months. If he stays out of trouble, it will be dropped. He has to pay $400 in costs.

He had been in custody for 28 days by the time he got before 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green on Aug. 26 and she released him on personal bond.

When asked about restitution, Van Buren Township Police Detective Donovan McCarthy said the store said it cannot sell the items that were recovered.

Ramsey said he was stopped in front of the store after the theft and all the property he took – including clothing, cosmetic items, and electronic products – were recovered and returned.

"I think that's a bunch of crap," said Judge Green of Walmart's claim, saying the story Walmart tells you to pay five times the value or they'll sue doesn't hold water. She said if he gets such a letter to throw it away. She said she's never seen Walmart carry through on such a threat.

While Ramsey was pretty much done with this charge, the Wayne County Third Circuit Court website indicates that on Aug. 25, the day before this court session with Judge Green, a warrant for his arrest for violation of probation on a drug use charge was issued by Judge Gregory Bill.

Daron Quantez Weatherspoon

Daron Quantez Weatherspoon, 26, waived his preliminary exam on charges of fleeing a police officer in a vehicle and retail fraud-2nd degree. He also is labeled a habitual offender.

Judge Green bound him over to circuit court for his arraignment on the information on Sept. 9.

His bond of $5,000/10% had been posted and was continued. This incident occurred July 24, 2014 in Van Buren Township. Detective Ken Toney is the officer in charge.

Weatherspoon was on parole after serving five years for assault with intent to rob while armed and separate instances of armed robbery on two different dates.

James Burton Adkins

Michael Vincent, the attorney for James Burton Adkins, announced a plea deal in which his client pled guilty to attempted fleeing and eluding, which under the Criminal Code is a misdemeanor. He also pled guilty to operating while impaired.

The original charges of fleeing and eluding police and operating while intoxicated-2nd were dropped.

Adkins said the incident happened in Van Buren Township on June 6 and he fled from police and drank before driving.

Judge Green set an 11 a.m., Oct. 13 pre-sentencing and his personal recognizance bond of $5,000 was continued. Vincent said Adkins had spent 2 ½ months in jail. Adkins' license will be revoked for the fleeing and eluding charge.

Devin Michael Beach

Devin Michael Beach, 18, was set for his preliminary exam before Judge Green but the charges were dismissed. Beach was out on $5,000 personal recognizance bond.

He was charged with home invasion-3rd degree, malicious destruction of personal property, and larceny less than $200 in the City of Belleville on Oct. 11, 2014.

His court-appointed defense attorney David Lankford announced that the complainant will not appear to testify.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
OF PLANNING SERVICES FOR A 5 YEAR
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, MICHIGAN

The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI is requesting qualifications for planning services of a 5 year parks and recreation master plan. Information packets are available at the Township Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Qualified individuals should submit their proposals to the Township Clerk at the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Charter Township, MI 48111 prior to 5:00 p.m., EST, Thursday , September 10, 2015 in a sealed envelope clearly labeled:

"Request for Qualifications – Planning and Administrative Services for 5 Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan"

The Township reserves the right to reject any and all responses and is not required to accept the lowest cost firm. The Charter Township of Van Buren is an equal opportunity employer. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Price in the Community Services office at (734) 699-8921.

Publish: August 27, September 3, 2015

Court Watching:

James Chapman set for preliminary exam before 34th Dist. Judge Parrott

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

James Forrest Chapman, 55, of Van Buren Township has been seeking release from the Wayne County Jail since last Thursday, hoping to get out wearing a tether.

But, as of Tuesday, Chapman was still in custody. Reports said he had trouble finding a residence with a land line to use with the tether, so he could not be released.

He had posted $2,500, 10% of the $25,000 bond on which he was being held, plus 10% of the $1,000 bond on a second charge. But he could not be released without the tether.

He is facing a felony charge of aggravated stalking that could bring him five years in jail and/or a $10,000 fine if convicted.

He also is charged with a second offense for refusing to give a sample for DNA profiling. That bond is $1,000/10%.

Chapman is also labeled as a habitual offender, which is count number three.

Chapman was brought from the Wayne County Jail on Wednesday, Aug. 26, for his probable cause conference on the stalking charge, before 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green. His preliminary exam is scheduled for Sept. 2 before Judge David Parrott.

Chapman's attorney John Day said they didn't want Judge Parrott because he was the one who sentenced Chapman to 183 days in jail. It was pointed out there was a jury that found him guilty of trespassing, which brought him 93 days in jail, and Judge Parrott added another 90 for Chapman going back to the property when ordered not to by the judge.

Judge Green said Day is demanding the preliminary exam. She said the felony cases at the court rotate each week and the Sept. 2 cases are before Judge Parrott. That can't be changed, she said.

Day said he would file a request for another judge and Green said he would have to file in front of Judge Parrott.

Day didn't know that the court session in front of Judge Green was the scheduled probable cause conference and the preliminary exam would be the next week. This is the new procedure in effect in the state since Jan. 1.

"I can't rule today," Judge Green explained, saying the probable cause conference is to see if something can be worked out with the court. The exam is a week later.

Judge Green wanted an explanation of the DNA charge against Chapman and Van Buren Township Detective Donovan McCarthy said Chapman refused to submit to a DNA sample. He said since July 1 every person arrested on a felony charge in Michigan had to submit a DNA sample and Chapman wanted to be the first person in the state to refuse.

Det. McCarthy said his department received an update on the law from Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy at the end of May advising his department of the law and that they must get a sample for each person arrested on a felony charge.

Det. McCarthy said the prosecutor charged Chapman with the first refusal in the state.

Day said the law seems to suggest there needs to be a court order.

A copy of the new law was passed to Judge Green and she looked it over.

She said this DNR case is set for a pretrial conference on Sept. 2 and she can't deal with it, but, "I would think you need a judge's order."

The prosecutor in the courtroom said the warrant was signed by a judge. The prosecutor reviewed it and a judge approved it.

Day said he still thinks it needs a judge's order.

Day then addressed the $25,000 cash bond, plus the $1,000/10% for the DNA sample. He said his client has been in jail for five and a half months.

The Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor on the case said the victim was not in court that day and was very fearful for his safety.

Chapman called out that he has lived next door to the man for five years and, "I'm not going to hurt him anytime soon."

The prosecutor said that statement implies he will hurt him in the future.

Judge Green asked what the prosecutor had to say and he said he wanted to tell the judge about Chapman's criminal history.

She said that wasn't necessary because, "I'm familiar with his history." She asked Chapman where he would go if he was released.

He said he would go to the garage on Hull Road, "my office," where his dog is.

When McCarthy said the victim is right next door, Judge Green said he can't go there.

Chapman said he goes to church across the street and, "You mean I can't go to church?"

It was pointed out he would have to pay $2,600 before they could do the tether.

Det. McCarthy warned, "If you let him go, I guarantee he'll go there. And, if there's one thing he doesn't like, he lashes out."

Day said they know he doesn't have any money and he's been away from the property for five and a half months.

Judge Green said she would turn the bond issue over to pretrial services at the jail and they can decide whether to release him on a tether for 10% bond.

Day pointed out that if the stalking case fails, the DNA sample case fails.

Judge Green said this is the first she's seen of someone refusing DNA.

Judge Green told Chapman that if the jail releases him, he can't go back to that property and Chapman said he wouldn't go there if that's what the judge wanted.

"Reduce my bond to $1,000 cash and I've give you my shirt," he said to the judge.

He was taken back to the lockup to go back to the county jail for a decision on his bond. Attorney Day went up to the bench and talked quietly with Judge Green as Chapman was removed from the courtroom.

When Chapman first entered the courtroom, he addressed Judge Green with: "Glad to see your face, finally."

Five local male friends were in Judge Green's courtroom to offer support to Chapman.

He was released from the Clare County Jail on Aug. 16 and immediately arrested on the new charge and taken to the Wayne County Jail.

That stalking charge was dated March 10 and the warrant was authorized Aug. 12.

On Aug. 14, attorney Day filed an appeal of Chapman's jury conviction for trespassing, alleging a conspiracy by VBT police. Circuit Judge Strong will hear the appeal.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Showing present: Supervisor J. Morgan, Clerk C. Hoffman, Treasurer Bates, Trustees: P. Morgan, Hamm, Oddy and Swinson. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk J. Hoffman and approx. 18 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public comments on agenda items only

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Hamm to approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 28, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve warrants totaling $286,309.14. Roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, C. Hoffman, Bates, Hamm, Swinson, P, Morgan, Oddy. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Water and Sewer Report: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by C. Hoffman to receive and file Water and Sewer Report. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Police Report-Pierce: Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Swinson to accept Police Report. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Building/Ordinance Report-J. Morgan: Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Swinson to accept Building/Ordinance Report. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Fire Report-Januszyk: Motion by Swinson, supported by P. Morgan to accept Fire Report. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Treasurer's Report-Bates: Motion by Hoffman, supported by Swinson to accept Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Supervisor's Report-J. Morgan: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to accept Supervisor's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Attorney's Report-Young: Motion by Hamm, supported by Swinson to accept Attorney's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Board Response: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to have the Finance Director give the Board quarterly reports on the Township finances. Motion carried unanimously.

15. New Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to name Maria Beaudrie as Human Resource Specialist. She will come out of the Union, stay in MERS and report to the Supervisor. She will have a pay increase of $2.00 per hour and have class enrollment in September 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Swinson, supported by Hoffman to hire Richard (Bud) Morgan as part-time/on call Senior Van Driver. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Swinson, supported by P. Morgan the Proclamation for Rosemary Otzman in Recognition of twenty (20) years of service. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Announcements:

17. Open Floor:

18. Adjournment: Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to adjourn at 7:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on August 11, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk
Publish: September 3, 2015

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 720 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Aug. 23:
0024 – loitering, Belleville Rd.
0138 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
0335 – noise complaint, Bog Rd.
0335 – assault & battery, Pierce St.
1006 – abandoned auto, Van Born/Belleville
1100 – abandoned auto, MortonTaylor/Van Born
1147 – hold-up alarm, Michigan Ave.
1233 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1315 – suicide or attempt, Belmont Dr.
1604 – mental, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1640 – weapons violation, Belleville/I-94
1640 – trespassing, Oak Blvd.
1726 – assault & battery, Maple Dr.
1835 – personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd.
2122 – operating while intoxicated, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton Rd.
2146 – suspicious person, Denton Rd.

Monday, Aug. 24:
0406 – disturbance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0508 – suicide or attempt, Stratford Dr.
0700 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0707 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
1111 – abandoned auto, Archwood Dr.
1128 – fraud, Pebblebrook Dr.
1219 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.
1433 – malicious destruction of property, Cobblestone Creek Dr.
1557 – larceny, Lighthouse Dr.
1641 – weapons violation, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1653 – unauthorized driving away of auto, W. Huron River Dr.
1657 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
1713 – agency assist, Deanna Dr.
1727 – personal injury accident, Savage Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1856 – trespassing, Sheldon Rd.
2045 – disturbance, Rawsonville Rd.
2243 – intimidation threat, N. Cumberland Dr.
2312 – disturbance, Belleville Rd.

Tuesday, Aug. 25:
0822 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Oak Ln.
0914 – larceny, Westlake
1006 – malicious destruction of property, W. Archwood
1044 – E-911 hang-up/investigation, Haggerty Rd.
1112 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Belleville Rd.
1120 – mental, Holly Ln.
1205 – mental, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1246 – E-911 cellular, Haggerty Rd.
1307 – hold-up alarm, Belleville Rd.
1530 – agency assist, Hoeft Rd./W. Huron River
1637 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1810 – breaking & entering, Laguna Dr.
2035 – fight, Parkwood Dr.
2106 – intimidation threat, Holly Ln.
2144 – agency assist, Wheeler St.
2145 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2316 – family trouble, Winding Pond Dr.
2329 – assist fire dept., I-94/Belleville Rd.
2348 – missing person, Winding Pond Dr.

Wednesday, Aug. 26:
0924 – larceny, Ormond Dr.
1000 – mental, Bellridge
1232 – agency assist, EB I-94/Ryznar
1336 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1352 – abandoned auto, Trilogy Apts.
1410 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1450 – agency assist, Rawsonville Rd.
1700 – private property accident, Haggerty Rd.
1721 – fraud, W. Huron River Dr.
1726 – missing person, Holly Ln.
1836 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2026 – harassment call, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2053 – missing person, Lohr
2118 – missing person, Hull Rd.
2128 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Sadie Ln.

Thursday, Aug. 27:
0037 – private property incident, N. Bellridge Dr.
0100 – private property incident, N. Bellridge Dr.
0323 – noise complaint, Outer Dr.
0500 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0802 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
0854 – agency assist, E. Huron River Dr. / Martinsville
0921 – agency assist, Victoria St.
1109 – larceny from auto, Anna Dr.
1233 – mental, Bradley Dr.
1337 – motorcycle patrol, Ecorse Rd.
1355 – hold-up alarm, Lake Pointe Pass
1436 – missing person, Van Buren St.
1445 – violation public health code / violation controlled substance act, Martinsville Rd./E. Huron River Dr.
1523 – assault & battery, Victoria St.
1658 – intimidation threat, Colony Ln.
1835 – juvenile complaint, Holly Ln.
2228 -- warrant arrest, Victoria

Friday, Aug. 28:
1005 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1033 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1200 – private property incident, Belleville Rd.
1301 – fraud, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1311 – assault & battery, Ash Dr.
1319 – agency assist, WB I-94/275
1322 – abandoned auto, Ross Dr./Morton Taylor
1400 – disturbance, Belleville Rd.
1501 – juvenile complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.
1525 – property damage accident, Belleville/I-94 Service Dr.
1756 – fraud, Lenmoore Ave.
1825 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / I-94 S. Service Dr.
1858 – harassment call, Lighthouse Dr.
2050 – family trouble, Maple Dr.
2052 – family trouble, Denton Rd.
2114 – family trouble, Parkwood Dr.
2219 – property damage accident, Patty Ln.
2232 – assault & battery, Denton Rd.

Saturday, Aug. 29:
0103 – assault & battery, McBride Ave.
0122 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
0133 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville / WB I-94
0140 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
0503 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0518 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0707 – breaking & entering, Belleville Rd.
0805 – disorderly conduct, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0924 – dumping complaint, Michigan Ave.
1053 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Denton
1054 – lake complaint, Denton/W. Huron River
1250 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1451 – personal injury accident, Ecorse Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.
1510 – harassment call, Stonebridge Dr.
1525 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1550 – trespassing, Michigan Ave.
1629 – property damage accident, Rawsonville
1731 – disorderly conduct, Ecorse Rd.
1736 – agency assist, Belleville Rd.
1740 – larceny from auto, Westlake
1748 – personal injury accident, Armstrong Funland
2111 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Rawsonville
2133 – fireworks, Mida Dr./Ecorse Service Drive B
2135 – fireworks, Belleville Rd./Ponderosa Trl.
2234 – malicious destruction of property, Vernon

Also on this week's log are 223 traffic stops, 69 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Aug. 23:
0159 – property damage accident, Main St. / W. Columbia Ave.
0201 – assist fire dept., High St.
0456 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1252 – neighbor trouble, Loza Ln.
1953 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
2013 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2155 – suspicious situation, Main St.

Monday, Aug. 24:
0146 – noise complaint, Loza Ln.
0326 – intrusion alarm, Light Tower Ct.
1243 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1430 – intrusion alarm, Owen
1840 – vehicle lockout, Davenport Plaza
1909 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
2001 – civil matter, Carmell St.
2017 – trespassing, Menlo Park Dr.
2049 – serve warrant, N. Edgemont Ave.
2334 – family trouble, Belle Villa Blvd.

Tuesday, Aug. 25:
0031 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
0635 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
0700 – suspicious vehicle, W. Columbia Ave.
0737 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
1442 – disorderly conduct, Johnny's
2008 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.

Wednesday, Aug. 26:
0133 – civil matter, Lakeview
0235 – warrant arrest, WB I-94/Belleville Rd.
1056 – intrusion alarm, Owen Rd.
1422 – welfare check, Carmell St.
1444 – fraud, N. Aberdeen Ct.
1516 – juvenile complaint, Carmell St.
1906 – family trouble, Loza Ln.

Thursday, Aug. 27:
0113 – civil matter, Loza Ln.
0335 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0831 – found property, Greylock St./S. Edgemont
0858 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N. Liberty St.
1112 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1304 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Sumpter Rd.
1448 – fraud, Main St.
1633 – bank drop, Main St.
2101 – welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
2311 – suspicious vehicle, Owen Intermediate School

Friday, Aug. 28:
0700 – follow up, Riggs
0913 – malicious destruction of property, Carmell
1151 – assist fire dept., Owen
1304 – E-911 hang up/investigate, Carmell St.
1434 – vehicle lockout, Second St./Liberty St.
1450 – juvenile complaint, Carmell St.
1511 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
1512 – fraud, Main St.
1846 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
2057 – agency assist, Denton
2127 – found property, Main St.
2222 – larceny from auto, W. Columbia Ave.
2245 – noise complaint, N. Aberdeen Ct.

Saturday, Aug. 29:
1122 – juvenile complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
1204 – intrusion alarm, Owen
1231 – found property, W. Columbia Ave.
1329 – E-911 hang up/investigation, W. Columbia
1432 – juvenile complaint, basketball courts
1432 – intrusion alarm, Owen
2003 – domestic assault, Carmell St.
2222 – noise complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.

Also on this week's log are 97 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Aug. 23:
1223 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1716 – fight, Greenmeadow
1844 – warrant pick up, Willis/Rawsonville
2019 – personal injury accident, Harris/Sumpter
2120 – criminal sexual conduct investigation, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2214 – alarm, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.

Monday, Aug. 24:
0743 – civil dispute, Mulberry
1046 – suspicious person, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1123 – warrant pick up, Second St.
1144 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1330 – animal complaint, 7900 bl. Oakville Waltz
1331 – attempt warrant pick up, out of township
1625 – attempt warrant pick up, 20000 bl. Elwell
1637 – attempt warrant pick up, Greenmeadow
1704 – attempt warrant pick up, Creekside
1717 – attempt warrant pick up, Carriage Ln.
1726 – warrant pick up, Rustic Ln.
1727 – identity theft, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1814 – warrant pick up, out of township
1820 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1837 – juvenile complaint, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1939 – flee & elude, Judd/Martinsville
2154 – juvenile complaint, 43000 Harris Rd.

Tuesday, Aug. 25:
0701 – civil dispute, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
0723 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1426 – civil dispute, Nevada
1455 – identity theft, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1519 – death investigation, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1703 – identity theft, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1740 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2012 – 911 hang up, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
2055 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Sumpter / Willow
2132 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.
2357 – alarm, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.

Wednesday, Aug. 26:
1039 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1042 – larceny, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1208 – threats complaint, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1243 – malicious destruction of property, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1255 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1630 – fight, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1700 – warrant pick up, out of township
2101 – missing person report, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
2350 – fire dept. assist, First St.

Thursday, Aug. 27:
0834 – malicious destruction of property, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0849 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.
1232 – citizen assist, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
1401 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1547 – suspicious incident, Brookview
1636 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1652 – civil dispute, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1734 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1757 – breaking & entering, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1846 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1958 – assist other agency, Judd/Rawsonville
2141 – civil dispute, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2334 – suspicious person, Willis/Elwell

Friday, Aug. 28:
0538 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0632 – warrant pick up, out of township
0710 – suspicious incident, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
0713 – suspicious incident, 25000 bl. Martinsville
0856 – civil dispute, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1201 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1350 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd
1531 – alarm, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1540 – suspicious incident, Brookview
1541 – fire dept. assist, 12000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1558 – juvenile complaint, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1623 – assist other agency, Rawsonville/Willow
1638 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1704 – civil dispute, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1756 – mental health commitment, Bemis / Martha's Ln.
1823 – animal complaint, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
2007 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2105 – ORV complaint, 2700 Martinsville Rd.
2249 – animal complaint, Sherwood/Arkona

Saturday, Aug. 29:
0700 – mental health commitment, New Mexico
1003 – animal complaint, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1457 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Bemis
1525 – civil dispute, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1612 – attempt warrant pick up, out of township
1621 – attempt warrant pick up, 40000 bl. Willis
1641 – attempt warrant pick up, Hampshire
1646 – flee & elude, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
1659 – animal complaint, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1802 – attempt warrant pick up, Greenmeadow
1820 – attempt warrant pick up, Carriage Ln.
1828 – juvenile complaint, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1913 – juvenile complaint, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1925 – civil dispute, Carriage Ln.
2149 – shots fired, 488000 bl. Bemis Rd.

Also on this week's log are 12 follow-up investigations, 40 miscellaneous details, 125 patrol checks, and 52 traffic stops.

The Belleville-Area Independent New Website is Now Online! Visit us @ bellevilleareaindependent.com Read The Newspaper On The Web!

Independent photo by James Otzman
Last week Captain Nemo's on Third Street in Belleville was getting its sign updated after the whole building was repainted.

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Belleville DDA

(continued from page 3)

said, speaking of better access, the Huron River Watershed Council has met with Van Buren Township many times on the French Landing portage for the river route from Proud Lake to Lake Erie.

She suggested people could come to Belleville for lunch on the river and then go back upstream for a day's outing.

Eggers said he went to the boardwalk on Belleville Lake and talked to five fisherman who told him they are catching walleye and catfish. He suggested the DDA might want to stock the lake.

Thompson said the DNR stocks walleye.

She said they have done phase I walking paths in Village Park and maybe for phase II they would have to get with the homeowners in Victoria Commons because it's right along their backyards.

Eggers suggested shade sails for Village Park because Savage Road coming into the city needs beautification. He suggested the CET Pharmacy sign at the other end of town needed work and asked about the facade program. And, then there is the Citgo Station, he said.

He suggested the Denton Road Bridge needed work. He said they could improve the shrubs, take down the chain-link fence and add a pedestrian walkway.

Higgerson suggested bike rental stations like they are putting in in Detroit. People could bike around town and to the lake. Thompson added rentals for kayaks and canoes are needed.

Eggers said and there is the thought of attracting businesses to the community. He suggested developing an app that would have the population, nearness to the airport, traffic count, and if they are interested in developing, could click to get more information.

It would cost $5,000-$10,000, Eggers said.

"We need to market ourselves," Loria agreed.

Thompson said as part of the Spicer service they are supplying a digital map of the DDA district.

Snarski suggested ways to market the app. He said once Belleville gets an anchor store, others will come. He said there is nothing for people to go to now.

Thompson suggested marketing to group pubs.

Eggers said you have to figure out if a brewery would fit in the city's zoning.

Thompson also said the city wants more residential and would like to see more mixed use downtown.

Mayor Conley asked where utility development fit on the list and Eggers said he would add it.

Thompson pointed out some items on the "done" list are actually ongoing projects, like website improvements, public art, and improved parking.

Eggers stressed the DDA should work to keep the view of the lake and asked about the parcel owned by Scott Jones on North Liberty Street that at one time had been slated for the BYC clubhouse. He asked if the city owned it and Thompson said, "Not yet."

Eggers said he will come up with two lists in five-year increments, one a generalized list and another with particular items so the DDA doesn't forget what it wanted to do.

Thompson said this list should be shared with the public and with the Van Buren Township DDA. The city and township DDAs plan to meet in the future and talk about partnerships, she said.

Although DDA funds can only be spent within their districts, an intergovernmental agreement could be signed for cooperative projects, Thompson said.

Snarski said he was interested in the app and Eggers said he would give more information on it to Thompson.

In other business at the hour-long non-meeting, the DDA:

• Heard a report by Joan Bodnar of the Strawberry Festival on how the festival spent the $6,000 grant from the DDA; and

• Discussed plywood-based construction for the two signs to mark the Courtesy Docks and Canoe/Kayak Launch done by Graph-X in the same style the company did the DDA's way-finding signs. A vote will be taken at an upcoming meeting.

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Wednesday is new night for Awana program at Bethany Bible Church

Bethany Bible Church, located at 810 E. Huron River Drive, will again begin its Awana program next Wednesday, Sept. 9.

Awana is a children's Bible club, for Kindergarten through 6th graders, which involves team activities, singing, and Bible memorization. The program is held from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. each Wednesday evening, fall through spring.

All area children are invited to join this program.

Students in 7th-12th grade are invited to FUSE on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:15 p.m.

For more information call the church at (734) 697-7456.

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14015 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN
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43260 HURON RIVER DR, VAN BUREN
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40085 ROBBE, VAN BUREN
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6315 DENTON , VAN BUREN
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47434 NORTH SHORE, VAN BUREN
THIS QUALITY BUILT BRICK RANCH Offers Much and Features the Best Curb Appeal. 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Two Fireplaces and Huge Partially Finished Basement with Wet Bar and Central Air. Large Corner Lot with Double Driveway, Fenced Back Yard, Storage Shed, Deck and More. Across from Belleville Lake. $234,500

7141 SADIE LANE, VAN BUREN
Economically Enticing and Value Intense 3 bedroom 2.5 bath colonial featuring hardwood foyer, oak kitchen, oak flooring, family room, Fireplace,doorwall leading to huge deck. Formal dining room, master suite with double closets. Basement, 3 car garage and new roof to be installed. A lot of home for the money. $175,000

500 HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE
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25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES $20,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES $30,000
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
45885 BEMIS PAVED RD BUIDABLE LOT $27,500
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES $30,000

49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES $180,000
VACANT SUMPTER 7.46 ACRES $30,000
42060 (NEXT TO) WILLIS 3.7 ACRES $45,000
WILLOW ROAD 1.36 ACRES $25,000
BOHN NEAR DUNN 5 ACRES $29,000

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
739 SAVAGE - PAVED ST 1 ACRE $35,000
15580 HAGGERTY 10.53 ACRES $95,000
VACANT BOG ROAD .55 ACRES $29,750
15880 HAGGERTY 10 ACRES $95,000

6422 GILMORE 82X165 WATER-SEWER $19,500
49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES $49,500
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